

## International Student and Scholar Services

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**From:** International Services  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 6:35 PM  
**Subject:** Fall Updates for F-1 and J-1 students

**Greetings!** We hope you are enjoying your summer. There's only **34 days** until the start of the fall semester! We want to give you some information about the fall. We will try to send updates weekly between now and the start of classes. I know this is a lot of information, but please read it carefully.

We are planning to be back on campus for the fall semester. Things will be different than what we are used to seeing on campus as we all wear masks, practice social distancing, meet remotely, etc. Hopefully, you have read the emails from the President and the Provost. There is a lot of useful information in these emails such as the university's [reopening plans](#).

### Enrollment

We will be operating in a hybrid format. This means that your classes may be a combination of in-person meetings and online meetings and assignments. It also means that your enrollment requirements that usually include a majority of in-person classes will be different. You may have a lot of online work with only minimal face-to-face presence in the classroom. This may be different for every class and for every student depending on their schedules. We will send more information about this next week.

The U.S. government issued guidance on July 6<sup>th</sup> that stated that students would have to leave the U.S. if we transitioned online and that we would have to issue updated I-20s for all F-1 students before anyone travelled back to the U.S. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, that guidance was rescinded. We will not be issuing updated I-20s. At this time, students who are not able to enter the U.S. and have online schedules will be able to maintain their visa status.

If you are not going to be able to enter the U.S. and come to campus, you can request an fully online schedule by submitting a [COVID-19 Adjustment Request Form](#). Please contact our office as well so we can advise you on your options as it relates to your student visa status.

### Travel

There are currently many travel restrictions. Students who have been in certain countries during the previous 14 days may not be allowed to enter the United States. Please monitor the [CDC website](#) for current information.

There is inconsistent guidance on the ability of students to enter the U.S. from the Schengen area countries (and possibly other restricted countries) with an approved **National Interest Exception**. We have not been able to find overall guidance on this, but a few individual U.S. Embassies have posted information about it. If you are returning to the U.S. from one of these countries, you may be able to apply for a National Interest Exception.

If there is no information on the website for the U.S. Embassy in your country, we encourage you to call or email them to request information. Some Embassy sites also recommend contacting the airline about your travel plans and any possible restrictions. You may also want to contact the Customs and Border Patrol at the place you will go through Customs. Please be very specific when you contact them and make sure they know that you are an F-1 (or J-1) student and that you are planning to travel to the U.S. from one of the countries that are currently restricted. **If you receive**

**confirmation that you are allowed to travel to the U.S., print that confirmation and carry it with you when you travel.**

For a link to the COVID-19 information for the U.S. Embassy in your country, visit this site:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html>

Please contact us if you have any questions. Also, monitor our website for [updates](#).



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